

Sacred Heart Parish

120 Jefferson Street ~ Swedesburg, Pennsylvania, 19405

(610) 275-1750



©JPPC

Rev. Peter J. DiMaria

Pastor

frdimaria@shswedesburg.org

Rev. Thomas A. Nasta

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. James J. Shea, Sch. P.

Weekend Assistant

Sr. MaryAnne Bolger, IHM

Parish Services Director

[srmayanne@shswedesburg.org](mailto:srmaryanne@shswedesburg.org)

Linda Moser

Coordinator of Religious Education

lmoser@shswedesburg.org

Leo Brady

Sacristan

Holy Mass:

Saturday: Anticipated Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:15 am

Monday through Saturday at 8:00 am

Sacrament of Penance:

Sunday: 9:30 to 9:50 am

Wednesdays:

7:30 to 7:50 am & 6:30 to 7:00 pm

Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 pm

FOCUS Missionary:

Caitlyn Sechuk

csechuk@shswedesburg.org

Valerie DiFilippo

*Parish Bookkeeper/
Cemetery Manager*

vdifilippo@shswedesburg.org

Joanne D'Alessandro

Parish Office Manager

jdalessandro@shswedesburg.org

Carl Gedeik

*Director of
Liturgical Music*

Joe & Jeff Houseal

*Directors of Parish
& Cemetery Facilities*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Tuesday, February 20th, our Book Club will meet in the Convent at 1:30 pm. Anyone interested, please feel free to join us. We shall finish discussing With God in Russia by Father Walter Cizek and

begin our new book The Boys in the Boat.

All are welcome!

Sister MaryAnne



**Lenten Eucharistic Adoration
&
Stations of the Cross**

Beginning this Wednesday, February 21st and on each Wednesday of Lent there will be

Eucharistic Adoration starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending with Stations of the Cross and Benediction at 7:30 p.m. each week.



Poor Box Offerings

We collected \$554.00 in the poor box during the month of January. The funds have been sent to the Missionaries of Charity in Norristown to assist with their work in feeding the hungry and giving shelter to the homeless. May God bless you for your generosity to the poor.



**Cereal Sunday
Collection**

We collected 190 boxes of breakfast cereal during the weekend of February 3 and 4. Thanks for such a great response. The cereal has been given to Martha's

Choice Market for distribution to the poor.



REGISTER FOR FAITH FORMATION



Registration for Sacred Heart PREP Summer Session is open!

What is Summer-Session Parish Religious Education?

The Summer-Session Program is an intensive (5 day) Religious Education Program designed as an alternative model to the traditional weekly program. Each day your child will work on a different unit of the curriculum and complete their level text in the week. Our students will also engage in faith-based group activities.

PREP Summer Session for the 2024 will run June 17–21 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Forms are available on the parish website under the PREP forms tab or can be found in the back of the church. Upon completion of the form, please return it with the applicable fee (see below) to the Rectory office, Attention PREP, Sacred Heart Parish, 120 Jefferson Street, Swedesburg, PA 19405 or place in the collection basket in an envelope marked PREP.

PREP fees for 2024-2025 are as follows: \$100 for one child, \$150 for two or more children. Any concerns, please contact the PREP Coordinator. (An additional \$15.00 late fee will apply for all registrations received after April 1.)





**16th Annual Man Up
Philly Men's
Spirituality Conference**
Saturday, March 2, 2024

From Death Into Life (1 Jn3:14)

The men of our parish are invited to join Catholic Men from throughout the Archdiocese for the **16th Annual Man Up Philly Men's Conference on March 2nd at Cardinal O'Hara HS.** Speakers include **Phillies Hall of Famer, Mike Schmidt**, acclaimed author of **Back to Life**, **Danny Bader**, That Man is You VP, **Mark Hartfiel**, and Coordinator of Young Life, **Deacon Nathan Gunn**. And back by popular demand, **Mark Forrest**, internationally recognized Irish tenor, who will lead our **Eucharistic Adoration**. The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be available, and the Conference will conclude with **Mass** celebrated by our archbishop **Most Reverend Archbishop Nelson Perez**.

For more information and to register go to the website: www.manupphilly.com



We extend a warm welcome to

*Justis Lorah
Colleen Canavan
Michael Connelly
Aaron Resendiz
Anai Hernandez*

who recently registered in our Parish!



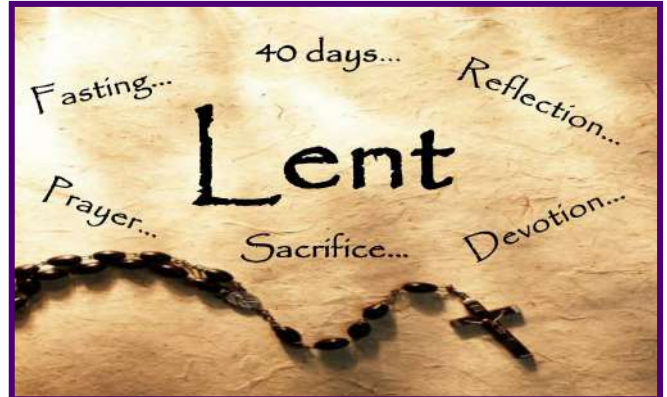
Monday Night Rosary - There will be a public recitation of the rosary in church each Monday at 7 p.m.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Ed DiGinto at 610-202-0069.



**ST. MARY POLISH
AMERICAN SOCIETY
EASTER FOOD SALE**

We are happy to announce the return of our annual St. Mary Polish American Society Easter Food Sale. Food items will include: Babkas (cheese, cinnamon crumb, or raspberry cheese) for \$16 each from L&M Bakery in Delran, NJ; -Pierogi (potato, potato cheese, or sauerkraut) for \$10 per dozen from Polka Deli in Port Richmond in Philadelphia; Kielbasa for \$9 per pound from Czerw's in Port Richmond. The deadline to place a food order will be Wednesday March 13th. Order pick-up will be on Friday, March 22nd and Saturday March 23rd from 1 to 4 pm at St. Mary Catholic Church Hall in Conshohocken. Proceeds from the Easter Food Sale support our mission of promoting Polish heritage in Montgomery County, PA and assistance with the restoration of St. Mary Catholic Church in Conshohocken, PA. To place a food order please email: foodsale@stmarypolish.org or call: Dorothy Swedkowski at 610-630-0861.



**Swedesburg Fire Co's
LENT DINNERS!**

Every **FRIDAY** during Lent

**From: Friday, February 16
thru to March 29**

5:00 to 8:00 PM

Swedesburg Fire Co's Social Hall

**TO PLACE AN ORDER CALL
610.272.9853**



Saturday, February 17

4:00pm Marjorie Egges

Requested by The Capaldo Family

Sunday, February 18

8:00am For the People of Our Parish

10:15am Donna Puskar

Requested by Peter & Linda Korpel

Monday, February 19

8:00am Edith Barbone

Requested by Peter & Linda Korpel

Tuesday, February 20

8:00am Yvonne Lake

Requested by Joe & Jeanette

Wednesday, February 21

8:00am For the Intentions of The Small Family

Thursday, February 22

8:00am Mario DiNenna

(Anniversary Remembrance, Feb. 23th)

Requested by His Family

Friday, February 23

8:00am Irene Smondrowski

Requested by Barbara Pupek & Family

Saturday, February 24

8:00am Jack Guzewicz

Requested by Amy & Tim Taylor

4:00pm Barbara Bores

(Birthday Remembrance, Feb. 26th)

Requested by Peter & Linda Korpel

Sunday, February 25

8:00am Frank Opielski

(2nd Anniversary Remembrance & Birthday Remembrance)

Requested by Wife, Wanda & Family

10:15am For the People of Our Parish



Let Us Serve The Lord With Gladness!

The following Ministers are scheduled for our Parish Masses.

Saturday evening, February 24:

4:00pm

Lector: Walt Fromm, Jr.

Sunday morning, February 25:

8:00am

Lector: Eileen Bralski

10:15am

Lector: Alex Kalivas

Priest & Extraordinary Minister Schedules

The Priest and Extraordinary Minister Schedules will not be published in the bulletin until the health status of Father James Shea is settled. **Note to our Extraordinary Ministers:** The schedule through the online scheduling system is the most up-to-date.

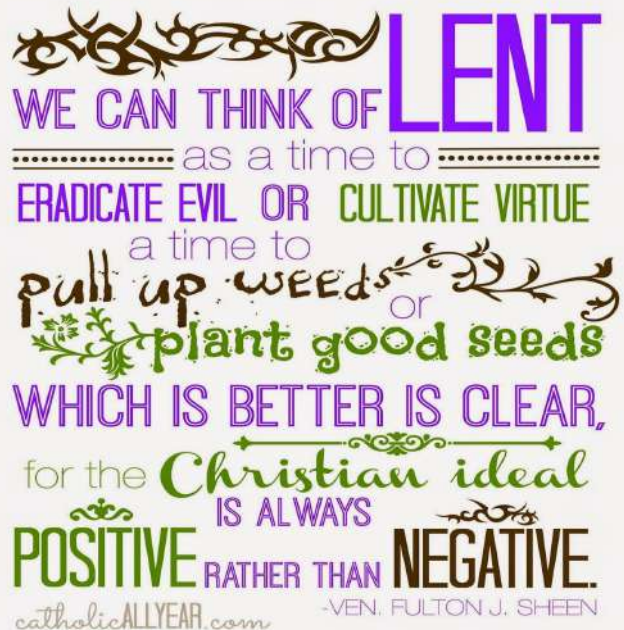


Weekly Report

February 10 - 11, 2024

\$5,376.00

Thank you for your support of Our Parish!



Suspension of Saturday 8 am Mass

Given Father James Shea's health condition, he has been unable to sacramentally assist us since November. For ten years he was the regular celebrant of the Saturday morning Mass.

The last Saturday morning Mass will be on February 24th. We will reevaluate this decision when and if Fr. Shea is able to return to the parish. No Saturday morning Mass intentions will be rescheduled but instead will be sent to retired priests for the fulfillment of the intention. Thank you for your kind understanding.

St. Benedict: Miracle-Worker & Exorcist



Did you know that St. Benedict is called the 'Father of Western Monasticism' and that many monasteries today still follow his Rule?

Have you heard that the St. Benedict medal is a powerful sacramental of the Catholic Church used for protection against evil? Please join us for our next Patricians discussion to learn more about Benedict of Nursia, his miracles, and his medal.

Each participant will receive a blessed medal to take home!

**Wednesday, February 21st
from 6:45 – 8:45 p.m.**

**in the coffee hour room (enter hall from Ford St. lot)
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
502 Ford St., Bridgeport, PA**

Parking available in the Ford Street lot, adjacent to the rectory & hall. *(No Commitment – Meetings are Monthly – Come When You Can!)* The Society of Patricians is sponsored by the Legion of Mary. More info: r.edel.lukens@gmail.com or 610-256-7125

The society of the Patricians is an informal group of adult Catholics who meet monthly under the direction of Fr. Sam Keyes to learn more about the Catholic Faith so that they can better share it with others.

Please come, and bring a friend!

Refreshments will be served and free literature will be available.



*Please Pray For All Who Protect Our
Country, especially...*

John F. K. Benedict (Major, USAF ANG), son of Christine & Vince Benedict; **Anthony C. Brandt** (CW3 Warrant Officer, U.S. Army Reserves), son of Eileen Brandt; **Zachary T. Brandt** (Sergeant U.S. Army), grandson of Eileen Brandt; **Matthew J. Capaldo** (Commander, U.S. Navy) son of John & Connie Capaldo; **Michael DeStefano, Jr.** (Sergeant U.S. Army) grandson of Jack & Sue DeStefano; **Michael Gutkowski** (Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy), grandson of Pat Gutkowski; **Samuel Hoey** (LCpl, U.S.M.C), grandson of Leona Cottone; **Noel Irizarry** (Specialist, U.S. Army), son of Patricia Epright; **Shane Jones** (Sergeant U.S. Marines), grandson of Fran Toth; **Matthew McNulty** (Chief Warrant Officer 4 U.S.M.C.), son of Irene McNulty; **Rick McVoy** (Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy) son of Rich McVoy; **Greg Philips** (Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy); **Jessica Prostack** (CW2 Warrant Officer, U.S. Army), daughter of Richard Prostack; **Jeffrey Seamans** (Captain, U.S. Army), son-in-law of Dolores Burton; **Stephanie Zugay** (National Guard), granddaughter of Greg & Grace Zugay.



George Minnis	Kerry Link
Al Cowling	Betty Lilick
John Puzio	Margaret Halas
Helene (Puzio) Dulaney	Ronald Halas
Mary (Puzio) Stephenson	Marge Leszczynski
Monica Pocolujko	Dolores Burton
Mary Boyle	Fran & Rob Worrall
Rosemary Giovinco	Rose Coscia
Fran Toth	Marion Raup
Jane Puzio Sharma	Joseph Saboe
Joan Birely	Irene Elliott
Evelyn Horning	Stanley Leszczynski
Martha Smoczylo	Ayden Boone
Kelly Benedict	Butch Rodenbaugh
Patricia Gaffney	Nicholas Janicki
Andrew Andreyko	Catherine Bankowski
Angela Desmond	Michael Myers
Fred Zugay	Melissa (Myers) Sillah
Mike Piskai	George Estock
Eileen Brandt	Helen Bednar
Denise Kavanagh	Barbara A. Burkert
Tom Kavanagh	John Smoczylo
Michael Martin	Laurie Ronan
Theresa Seiders	



Giving Hope TO ALL

CATHOLICCHARITIESAPPEAL.ORG

Your Impact



**DID YOU KNOW
1 IN 5 PEOPLE**

in the Greater Philadelphia area count on the Catholic Charities Appeal for help and hope? We may not notice them, but they are there in every county, town, parish, and neighborhood.

It's time we focus on the women and children looking for shelter, focus on those experiencing poverty and looking for a meal, and focus on individuals with special needs looking for opportunity.

Every year, the Catholic Charities Appeal impacts nearly one million lives. But this is not possible without your help. Your gift matters more than you know.

CATHOLICCHARITIESAPPEAL.ORG

Ways to Give

The Catholic Charities Appeal is recognized as a non-profit institution. As such, all gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. It has its own Employer Identification Number (EIN) and receives a separate financial audit. Besides gifts of cash, donors to the 2024 Catholic Charities Appeal may contribute in many other ways, each offering tax advantages according to their circumstances:

- Pledge Gift
- Gifts of Cash
- Matching Gifts
- Electronic Fund
- Transfer (EFT)
- Gifts of Securities
- Planned Gifts

For more information about any of the ways you can support the 2024 Catholic Charities Appeal, please call The Catholic Foundation of Greater Philadelphia at 215.587.5650 or email cca@thecfpg.org.



@catholiccharitiesappeal
 @catholiccharitiesphila
 @catholicappeal

CATHOLICCHARITIESAPPEAL.ORG
215.587.5650

Special Education OUR LADY OF CONFIDENCE



"My son, Finn, is 6 years old – he is a rambunctious, fun-loving little boy who also happens to have Down Syndrome. He has no idea that he's disabled, and he wouldn't want it any other way. He doesn't let his disabilities hold him back. Finn attends Our Lady of Confidence School, one of the three Schools of Special Education in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. I am a Catholic School teacher, so it was very important to my wife and I that Finn receives a Catholic education. Finn loves going to school every day. He and his classmates are treated with respect and dignity. It takes a special kind of person to dedicate their life to a mission, and that's what the school provides. This is a welcoming, safe place that values our children. **They deserve to have the best life possible because they are God's creation. The Catholic Charities Appeal makes all this possible. Any donation will really help make a difference. These children are not always given a fair chance, and by supporting the Appeal, you are providing them with a safe place to learn and grow in their Catholic faith.**"

– Bill, Parent, Our Lady of Confidence School



OUR LADY OF CONFIDENCE (OLC) PROVIDES A SMALL, STUDENT-CENTERED LIFE SKILLS CURRICULUM IN A CATHOLIC ENVIRONMENT. 95% OF FAMILIES REQUIRE ASSISTANCE TO AFFORD TUITION AT OLC, AND THIS IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF THE CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL.

February 18, 2024

1st Sunday of Lent

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

*Repent,
and believe in the
Gospel*

Each Lent we open the Sundays with the account of Our Lord entering the desert. We might naturally picture Him in the land of the ancient pyramids. Or maybe the vast stretches of sand where Lawrence of Arabia fought his epic battles. This scene, however, is not one of endless sand,

with the complete absence of water and greenery. The desert mentioned here was a remote area for sure, largely soundless as opposed to the noise of villages and towns. Wild beasts were the only creatures who would lurk around Him from time to time. But mainly it was the kind of place free of the usual distractions, where a person could face his inmost thoughts, hopes and desires, as well as his faults and failures.

Here it was that Jesus went, not contending with any faults or failures, but to commune with His Father and prepare for His unique mission. We know from the other gospel accounts that Satan himself came to disturb and tempt Jesus with the same matters that often lure us into sin: wealth, power and fame, sex, and addictions of all kinds. Not only is Jesus' strength and endurance remarkable as he deals with this confrontation with the same human nature as we have. But He also does so with His divine power armored with humility and the words of the Scriptures.

St. Mark does not give us the details of this high drama. Simply a blunt statement that the Spirit "drove" Jesus to the desert, in itself a remarkable declaration. It comes across as a mandatory requirement for Jesus to begin saving the world from its sin.

Lent has ever since been symbolized in our churches by decorations that include barren growth, perhaps with cactus plants, rocks and even some sand. But more importantly, the Church wants us to go to our own "desert," whether it's at a nearby park or woods, perhaps even in our parked car, or a corner of our bedroom with a lit candle and a notebook for writing. Certainly, with the cell phone off and packed away. Certainly, a handy copy of the Bible would be helpful. Or a prayer book you favor, or your rosary. Give yourself some time to "shut down" your busy brain and grow calm. Then you can go on to "meet yourself" so to speak. But always be careful to listen to the Lord with less talk from you.

In this simple way, practiced as close to a daily effort as we can, that we can learn the major truths of Lent. To be at peace with the one Person who loves you completely, enough to die for your sake on a cross. To have a focus for your Lent 2024, which, who knows? could be your last.

Eight-ninths of the bulk of an iceberg is below the waterline and out of sight. Only one-ninth is visible above the surface. Our prayer life should be like an iceberg, with about one-ninth showing in public group prayer and eight-ninths out of sight in our personal prayer time.

God love you and give you His peace.